

B. Remarks

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application. The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,153,572 (“Caldwell”) and U.S. Pat. No. 4,289,980 (“McLaughlin”).

The examiner has rejected claim 1 as anticipated by Caldwell on the ground that Caldwell purportedly discloses a control circuit that produces a control output to a load only when a second field effect sensor senses touch at least a predetermined time after a first field effect sensor senses touch. The examiner has rejected claim 2 as anticipated by Caldwell on the ground that Caldwell purportedly discloses a control circuit that produces a control output to a load only if input from a second field effect sensor is received more than a predetermined time after input is received from a first field effect sensor. Applicant respectfully traverses these bases for rejection. The control circuit of Caldwell does not require sequential receipt of input from first and second field effect sensors in order to produce a control output. Indeed, the control circuit is configured to provide a control output upon either a first sensor or a second sensor sensing touch. In one operating mode, the control circuit of Caldwell inhibits production of a control output when both the first and second sensor are touched at the same time. The control output is not enabled until a predetermined time after touch is removed from at least one of the first and second sensors. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Caldwell does not teach the claimed invention.

The examiner also has rejected the claims as anticipated by McLaughlin on the same grounds. Applicant respectfully traverses these bases for rejection, as well. While McLaughlin discloses in FIG. 3 a circuit having two sensors, each of the sensors separately and independently controls a respective load. Specifically, sensor 36 controls load 80 and sensor 94 controls load 90.

The control of load 90 is independent of the operation of sensor 36, and the control of load 80 is independent of the operation of sensor 94.

Applicant hereby adds new claims 4-13 to further claim the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark P. Vrla
Registration No. 43,973

Dated: September 30, 2005

JENNER & BLOCK LLP
One IBM Plaza
Chicago, IL 60611
Ph: (312) 923-2657
fax: (312) 840-7657